

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01787 191044Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01
ACDA-12 /107 W
-----036985 191052Z/16

O P 191005Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8452
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1787

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: CASC, PINS, MOPS, CG, ZA
SUBJ: SHABA INCURSIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR EVACUATION TO LUSAKA

REF: LUSAKA 1778

1. BRITISH HICOM WAS INSTRUCTED MORNING MAY 19 TO OBTAIN
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GRZ AUTHORIZATION TO PRE-POSITION RAF AIRCRAFT AT LUSAKA
AIRPORT IN CASE REFUGEES FROM KOLWEZI EVACUATED TO LUSAKA.
GRZ FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
ZIMBA, IS CHECKING THE REQUEST OUT WITH DEFENSE AND HAS
PROMISED TO GET BACK TO BRITS BY NOON LOCAL. IF CLEARNCE
IS RECEIVED, BRITS ANTICIPATE ARRIVAL OF RAF VC 10 IN LUSAKA
AT 2400 HOURS TODAY. THREE RAF C-130'S, DESCRIBED AS HOSPITAL

PLANES, WOULD NOT ARRIVE UNTIL SOMETIME SATURDAY, MAY 20. BELGIAN EMBASSY RECEIVED ASSURANCES EARLIER IN THE WEEK THAT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT RPT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT EVACUATING REFUGEES FROM SHABA WOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY CLEARED FOR LANDING IN ZAMBIA. AS OF 1000 HOURS LOCAL TODAY BELGIANS HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN CLEARNCE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT TRANSPORT REFUGEES FROM KOLWEZI.

2. EMBASSY LUSAKA HAS MADE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MEETING AND CARING FOR THE FOURTEEN AMERICANS REPORTED TO BE IN KOLWEZI. A SECONDARY CONCERN BUT ONE WHICH COULD BECOME PRESSING IS THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS CITIZENS NEAR THE ZAMBIAN-SHABA BORDER (REFTEL). THESE AMERICANS COULD BE SUBJECT TO MOLESTATION BY RETREATING KATANGESE IF THEY ARE DRIVEN FROM KOLWEZI AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN SHABA. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED AMERICANS IN THAT AREA BY RADIO AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO BE ALERT TO POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE BORDER AREA.

3. WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT ARE NOT BEING PRESSED FOR DETAILS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN WIDELY REPORTED EVACUATION EFFORT CONTEMPLATED BY BELGIANS AND FRENCH.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

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